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Binding covers

Publications

QUARTO SER.

of the

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.



V. 1. no. 12

N^o XII.

ROMAN-BRITISH REMAINS.

ON THE MATERIALS OF TWO SEPULCHRAL VESSELS.

WITH TWO PLATES.

CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

PUBLISHED BY J. & J. J. DEIGHTON, AND MACMILLAN & CO.;

JOHN W. PARKER, LONDON;

AND

J. H. PARKER, OXFORD.

M.DCCC.XLVI.

N. B. In this No. are contained,

1. Professor Henslow on two Sepulchral Vases, with two Plates.
2. Explanation of the Plates to No. X. Sir H. Dryden on Roman and Roman-British Remains.
3. Plates three and four to No. X.
4. Title Page and Contents to Vol. I.

ROMAN-BRITISH REMAINS.

ON THE
MATERIALS OF TWO SEPULCHRAL VESSELS

FOUND AT
WARDEN, CO. BEDS.

BY
THE REV. J. S. HENSLOW, M.A.
PROFESSOR OF BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

WITH TWO PLATES.

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M.DCCCXLVI.

ON THE
MATERIALS OF TWO SEPULCHRAL VESSELS
OF THE
ROMAN-BRITISH PERIOD.

BY

THE REV. J. S. HENSLOW, M.A.

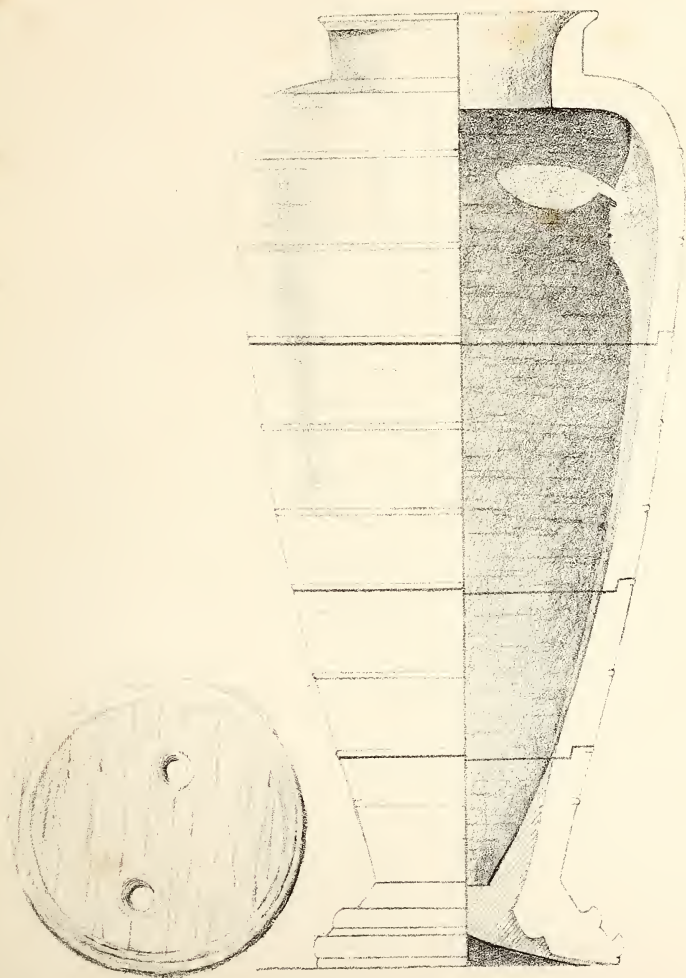
PROFESSOR OF BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

IN the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. I. p. 347, there is a paper by Mr Sydenham, on the Kimmeridge Coal-money, which he has clearly determined to be the "waste pieces thrown out of the lathe as the refuse nuclei of rings," which were used as armlets, &c. I know not whether it may be considered any additional confirmation of this opinion, to mention that a personal friend of my own, who is skilful as a turner, upon seeing a specimen of the Coal-money in my possession, sent me a piece of ebony prepared as a chuck for his lathe, by way of illustrating what he conceived this Coal-money must have been. Upon looking over some fragments of Romano-British pottery from the neighbourhood of Colchester, I met with what appears to have been part of a large patera, or at least some vessel with a flat surface and a shallow projecting rim. This fragment is of the same material as the Kimmeridge Coal-money; and bears the impression of a fossil ammonite (?) distinctly marked upon its fractured surface. Upon drying, it has become cracked and *warped* precisely in the same manner as we see the specimens of Coal-money.

Upon examining Mr Inskip's collection of Roman-British antiquities, now in the possession of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, I perceived that the two remarkable vessels of which an engraving has been made to accompany this communication, were composed of a bituminous shale, in all respects similar to that which occurs in the Kimmeridge clay, and from which the Coal-money has been turned. These vessels which were found at Warden in Bedfordshire, are referred to in the 10th No. of the Publications of the Society, (page 20), and it is there stated that they had been considered to be of oak. I can detect no trace of ligneous structure, and it seems to be not improbable that the bitumen may have been derived from the decomposition of animal rather than of vegetable matter. A faint trace of a fossil impression may be seen on the bottom of the more perfect vessel, and towards the summit there is also a sand-gall, or intermixture of sandy material, in the shale; and probably indicating the direction of the strata. These vessels have been formed out of separate pieces, as though the bed of shale had not

been of sufficient thickness to admit of their being turned from a single mass. I suppose it to be necessary that the axis of the vessels should be perpendicular to the natural laminae of the shale, as this appears to have been the arrangement sought for in all the pieces of Coal-money I have seen: which always split by natural cleavage perpendicular to their axis. Attention to the arrangement of the laminae seems to have been as advisable as that which turners are accustomed to pay to the grain in wood.

The Rev. Dr Webb pointed out to me a ring of similar material connected with a bronze ring which was so clasped into it that the two had the appearance of a link in a chain. They were found in this state lying upon the breast of a skeleton, at Littlington, and are now among the numerous remains from that locality placed in the library of Clare Hall. Both these rings would have been considered as armlets, excepting for the above arrangement. Perhaps I may be permitted to suggest the possibility of many rings, usually considered as armlets, having served as fastenings or supports to the upper part of the vestment. I have twice found bronze rings lying on skeletons in a similar position to that noticed by Dr Webb; and in each case they were in pairs, a thick and a thin one together. I could not distinctly ascertain whether those of the same pair had been clasped into each other; as the thinner rings were much decayed and broken into several pieces. If these rings had not served as clasps, possibly they had been worn as ornaments suspended round the neck. The green rust on the inside of one of the larger rings is singularly impressed with what I consider to be the markings of the flesh of the human thumb; as though the individual had died grasping the ring, and had been thus buried. These specimens were from the neighbourhood of Felixtow in Suffolk.

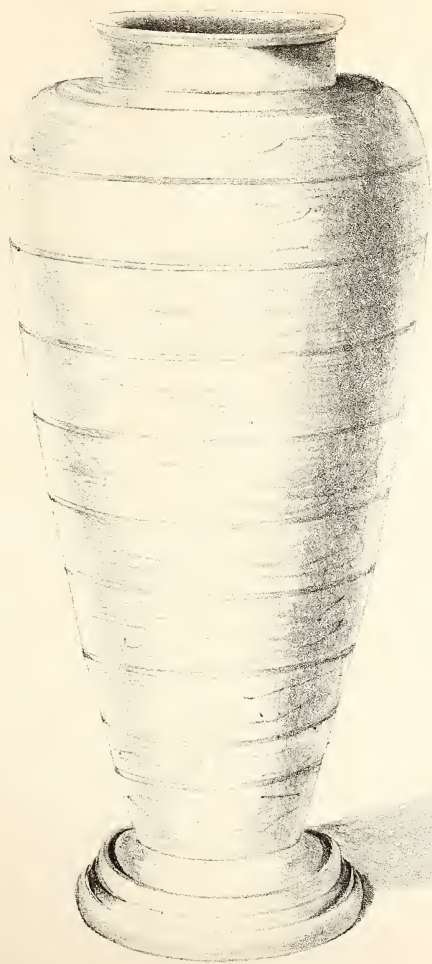


KIMMERIDGE COAL MONEY.
actual size.

Drawn by H. Deakins, Esq.

Mitchell & Palmer, Litho. Cambridge

ELEVATION & SECTION
OF THE KIMMERIDGE COAL VASE.



Drawn by H. Dawkes, Esq

W. Stelfox & Palmer, Litho Cambridge.

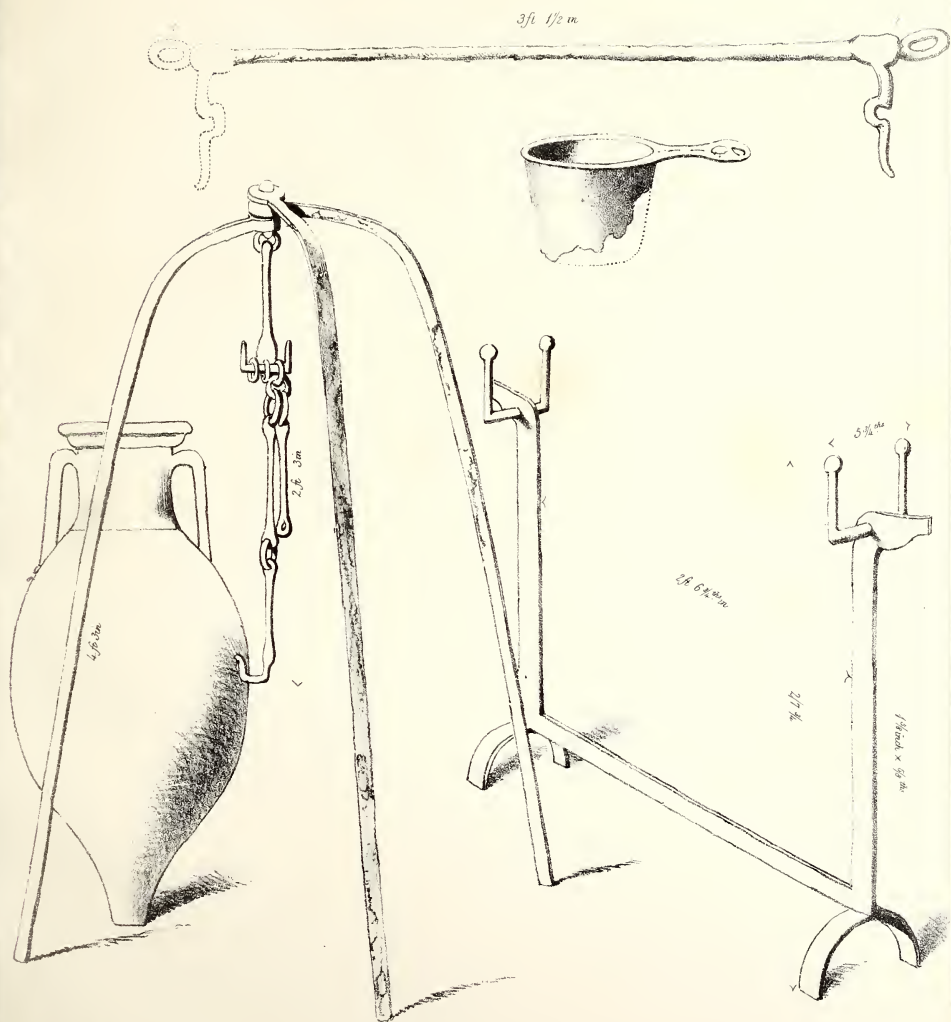
KIMMERIDGE COAL VASE.

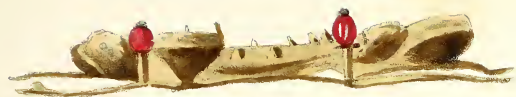
HALF THE SIZE.

Explanation of the Plates in SIR H. DRYDEN'S Paper on Roman and Roman-British Remains.

[The numbering of the Plates is unfortunately omitted by the Engraver.]

- PLATE I. Fig. 1. (p. 13.) Glass Jug.
 Fig. 2. (p. 13.) Glass Jug.
 Fig. 3—6. (p. 12.) Brass Dish.
- PLATE II. Fig. 1. and 2. (p. 15.) Brass Jug.
 Fig. 3. (p. 19.) Glass Bowl.
 Fig. 4. (p. 19.) Glass Bottle.
 Fig. 5. (p. 19.) Glass Bottle.
 Fig. 6. (p. 19.) Armlet.
 Fig. 7. (p. 17.) Flute of bone.
 Fig. 8 and 9. Stone Rings.
 Fig. 10 and 11. Glass Beads.
 Fig. 12 and 13. Stone Ring.
- PLATE III. (p. 16 and 17.) Cooking implements and Amphora.
- PLATE IV. (p. 20.) Brooch.





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